

## **The Best Invention of the Past 25 Years**

### **Persuasive Research Project**

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

We will spend the next two weeks preparing a persuasive research paper that focuses on the question: What was the most significant and/or important invention of the past twenty five years? This sheet will outline the requirements for the paper and the process we will use to complete it; however, each day you should expect additional instruction about the portion of the process we will work on that day.

#### **Everyone's paper will follow the same basic format:**

- I. **Introduction:** Should have as thesis statement a single sentence that emphatically states what you believe to be the greatest invention of the past <sup>25</sup>100 years.
- II. **Background on Inventor and Invention:** What did he/she do before and after inventing this thing? What lead up to the invention or the need for the invention?
- III. **Impact of Invention on Economy:** How has this affected the economy?
- IV. **Impact of Invention on Society:** How common is it? What are the positive/negative aspects of it?
- V. **Conclusion:** Explain where this invention could go next. Predict the future. Summarize the other ideas in the paper.

#### **Every day in class and for homework we will work on a certain part of the research process:**

- Day 1 : Introduce topic and paper, choose a topic, and find research on inventor, invention, and significance of invention. Discuss a working bibliography.
- Day 2 : Thesis writing and gathering useful notes from research—keeping up with sources
- Day 3 : Organizing your outline and Working on Notecards
- Day 4 : Drafting and in text citations
- Day 5 : Revision
- Day 6 : Completed essay due at the beginning of the block

## Day 1: Choosing a Topic and Finding Information

**Choosing a Topic:** I hope you will not have too much trouble deciding what invention to choose, but let's use a process just to be sure you pick something workable.

**Step 1: Inventions**—List your opinion of the top 5 inventions that have had the biggest impact on society of the past 25 years:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Of these, star the two you feel have had the biggest impact. Below, state why you think these two have had the biggest impact.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Think about the reasons you gave. Which one is better? Star the invention you feel has truly had the biggest impact on or significance to society over the past 25 years. This will hopefully be the topic you will research for this paper.

While normally now would be a good time to work on a thesis statement, we are going to hold off on that until next class. You have some of the information you need for your thesis already above, but I think it might be helpful to do a little research before finalizing a thesis statement. For that reason, the next thing we will work on is preparing a preliminary or working bibliography.

## Topic Choices for A –Day classes

Stubbe

- Ordering Online
- Security Systems
- Hybrid Cars
- Drum machines
- Mac computers
- LED's
- GPS
- E-Mail
- Wake Board Pulley System
- Bio Diesel
- IPAD
- Water Filters
- Caller ID
- AED (defibrillators)
- Adobe
- Tattoo Guns
- Digital Cameras
- IPOD
- Graphic Animation
- Fuel Choices
- Google
- Microwave
- Space Travel
- Cell Phone
- WiFi
- ATM
- Smart Cars
- Solar power
- Cordless Phone
- Touch Phones
- Contacts
- Space Shuttle
- Washer/Dryer
- Aglet
- Video Game systems
- Internet
- Recycling service
- Blood Drives
- My Space
- Facebook
- Kool-Aid
- Zippers
- Military Weapons
- Remoter Controls
- MP#
- Laptops